Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005

Message Text

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PAGE 01 CALCUT 01939 170358Z

15
ACTION H-03

INFO OCT-01 NEA-09 ISO-00 RSC-01 DRC-01 /015 W
---------- 036405
R 170240Z SEP 74
FM AMCONSUL CALCUTTA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4152
INFO AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI

C O N F I D E N T I A L CALCUTTA 1939

PASS TO SENATOR PERCY'S OFFICE FOR MISS JACOBSON

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PFOR, OVIP, IN, BT, US
SUBJ: PERCY MEMCON ON DISCUSSIONS IN BHUTAN

1. OUR ATTEMPTS TO RE-RECORD THE TAPE OF YOUR MEMORANDUM OF CONVERSATION WITH THE KING OF BHUTAN WERE UNSUCCESSFUL. OUR RECORDING IS SO FAULTY AND INCOMPLETE THAT IT IS IMPOSSIBLE TO TRANSCRIBE IT. HOWEVER, FROM THE BITS AND PIECES WE HAVE, WE KNOW IT WOULD BE OF GREAT INTEREST TO US, AND WE ASSUME TO NEW DELHI AND THE DEPARTMENT AS WELL. WE, THEREFORE WOULD LIKE TO HAVE A COPY OF THE TRANSCRIPT, AS YOU SUGGESTED WE MIGHT WHEN IT IS MADE.

2. MEANWHILE, THE SECTION WHICH YOU DICTATED AT MY HOUSE WAS PROPERLY RECORDED AND IS TRANSCRIBED BELOW.

3. QUOTE WE HAD BEEN APPRISED THAT HIS MAJESTY WISHED TO MAKE A PRESENTATION OF GIFTS TO US. WE ADVISED THE FOREIGN MINISTRY, THE ASSISTANT PROTOCOL OFFICER, THAT UNDER THE LAWS OF THE UNITED STATES WE COULD ACCEPT NO GIFTS EXCEEDING $50 IN VALUE; THAT IT WOULD BE MEANINGLESS TO US TO RECEIVE ANY GIFTS BEYOND THAT VALUE BECAUSE WE COULD NOT THEN KEEP IT. IT WOULD HAVE TO BE TURNED OVER TO THE STATE DEPARTMENT AS HAS BEEN OUR PRACTICE IN THE PAST AND WE HAVE HAD SUCH GIFTS THEN TURNED OVER TO THE SMITHSONIAN INSTITUTE. SO THAT IF THE KING DID WISH US TO HAVE SOMETHING THAT WE COULD KEEP, IT WOULD HAVE TO BE OF NOMINAL
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 CALCUT 01939 170358Z

VALUE. THE FOREIGN MINISTER, AFTER WE HAD FINISHED OUR

Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005

Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005

AUDIENCE WITH HIS MAJESTY, THEN PRESENTED ON BEHALD OF HIS MAJESTY THREE GIFTS--A MODERN TANKA THAT APPARENTLY HAD BEEN MADE BY A YOUNG ARTIST IN THE DZONG ITSELF, A PIECE OF MATERIAL FOR A DRESS FOR MRS. PERCY AND CIGARETTE BOX FOR MYSELF WHICH HAD A ROSE IN FULL BLOOM INSIDE THE BOX. THEY WILL BE TURNED OVER TO THE STATE DEPARTMENT FOR VALUATION AND I PRESUME THAT THE VALUE OF THE ELECTRONIC CALCULATOR THAT WE PRESENTED PERSONALLY TO HIS MAJESTY WOULD FAR OFFSET THE VALUE OF THESE GIFTS AS THEY DID APPEAR TO BE NOMINAL IN VALUE BUT WHICH, OF COURSE, HAVE SOME SIGNIFICANCE TO US BECAUSE THEY ARE DIRECTLY FROM HIS MAJESTY.

3. I MENTIONED TO HIS MAJESTY IN DISCUSSING RELATIONSHIPS BETWEEN BHUTAN AND INDIA THE GOOD FORTUNE THAT THE UNITED STATES HAS HAD IN THE PAST IN HAVING SUCH OUTSTANDING AMBASSADORS FROM INDIA AS B.K. NEHRU, L.K.JHA WHO IS NOW GOVERNOR IN KASHMIR AND ALSO AMBASSADOR TIKI KAUL WHO IS NOW AMBASSADOR TO THE UNITED STATES AND HIS EXTRAORDINARILY GOOD RELATIONSHIPS WITH SECRETARY KISSINGER. I TOLD HIS MAJESTY THAT I HAD HAD SEVERAL MEETINGS DURING MY VISIT TO THIMPU WITH INDIAN AMBASSADOR AND MRS. KHOSLA. MRS. KHOSLA HAS AN EXTREMELY SENSITIVE INTEREST IN EVERY ASPECT OF BHUTANESE CULTURE AND BOTH OF THEM CONSIDER THEMSELVES EXTRAORDINARILY FORTUNATE TO BE IN BHUTAN REPRESENTING THE GOVERNMENT OF INDIA AND PRIME MINISTER GANDHI. FORMERLY THEY HAVE BEEN IN LONDON AND IN OUR JUDGMENT BOTH INDIA AND BHUTAN ARE FORTUNATE IN HAVING SUCH AN OUTSTANDING YOUNG COUPLE TO HELP PROVIDE A LINK BETWEEN THE TWO GOVERNMENTS.
PICKERING

NOTE BY OC/T: NOT PASSED ABOVE ADDRESSEE.

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Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005

Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005

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